

tions; the lower ones being reflexed. These leaves would render the plant admirably suited to the formation of fences, in the nature of the spinous margins; for the upper half of the leaf has all the spines directed forward towards the apex, presenting a great obstacle to intrusion of man or beast in that direction, whilst those lower down the leaf (longer and stronger too) have their curvature downwards, so that if man or animal is so bold as to make his way partially through, the decurved spines would prevent his retracing his steps with impunity. The compound spike of flowers upon the column-like perfectly straight peduncle is remarkable for its size; the large full yellow (but inclining to green) flowers and the copious bracteas turning brown or black in age. This plant is called *Cardon* and *Puya* in Chili, where the soft substance of the stem is used for corks and bungs: the flowers yield a remedy for hernia, and the Indians use the spines of the leaves for fish-hooks." (Curtis's Botanical Magazine, vol. 9, pl. 4715.)

*Ribes spp.* (Grossulariaceae.) 42223-42267. Cuttings of 45 varieties of black, red, and white currants from Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Presented by Mr. W. H. Fairfield, Superintendent, Experimental Station for Southern Alberta. Introduced for experimental work of the Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations because of their success in the trying climate of Alberta and for distribution through the North West.

*Soja max* (L.) Piper. (Fabaceae.) 42059. Seeds of soybean from Keijo, Chosen, Japan. Presented by Miss Katherine Wambold. "*Kong*. Cooked, pressed, hung all winter to rafters, then soaked in a brown liquid, called *chang*, used as a salty sauce on food. It is parched and eaten just so. A few partly cooked grains are often scattered in the rice as we use raisins in a rice pudding." (Wambold.)

*Spiraea veitchi* Hemsley. (Rosaceae.) 42195. Seeds from Kew, England. Presented by Sir David Prain, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. Considered by Mr. Wilson the best of Chinese Spiraeas. Produces arching shoots sometimes 6 feet long wreathed from end to end with clusters of pure white blossoms. Hardy in the Arnold Arboretum.

*Viburnum rhytidophyllum* Hemsley. (Caprifoliaceae.) 42199. Seeds from Kew, England. Presented by Sir David Prain, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens. A remarkable shrub which is one of the most distinct and striking of all the newer Chinese shrubs. This shrub has a curious habit of forming its inflorescences and partially developing them in autumn, but they remain exposed all through the winter and until the blossoms expand the following May or June. (Adapted from W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 655.)